

Ebenezer Dyer House
Higgins Hollow Road
Truro
Barnstable County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-744

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MA-744

EBENEZER DYER HOUSE

Location South side of Higgins Hollow Road, east of the intersection of Long Neck Road, Town of Truro, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

Present owner Robert F. Bostock,

Present occupant Robert F. Bostock and family.

Present use Summer residence.

Significance This is a Greek Revival "double" house, very early type, located on Cape Cod within the area of the proposed Cape Cod National Seashore.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Original and subsequent owners Original owner is unknown. Inquiry among the local historians disclosed some facts about the property however. Mrs. Ruth Dyer, Truro Librarian and local historian said that her great, great grandfather, Ebenezer Dyer, Jr. lived in this house. She thinks it belonged to his wife, Ruth Young, and that house was in her family before this. Mrs. Dyer said also that Ebenezer was born in 1813, and was married to Ruth Young on Dec. 8, 1835.

Sheldon Osborn Ball, Attorney of Provincetown, Mass. obtained the property in 1959 in foreclosure proceedings. He said that he was raised in the neighborhood of the Bostock house and that he remembered Samuel Faine living there from about 1895 to 1910. About 1920, he said, a Mr. Cook and his wife, Susan Glaspell, purchased the house. A gift of it was made to their son Hall in about 1938. Mr. Ball has these deed references: Books 41, p. 35; 44, p. 516; 332, p. 114; 335, p. 198; 344, p. 595; 370, p. 359; 437, p. 206.

Present owner purchased house from Mr. Ball in 1957.

Date of erection Late 18th or early 19th century.

Architect Unknown.

Builder Unknown.

Original plans None known to exist.

Alterations and additions A shed was added to the east side of the house at an unknown date; a kitchen ell was added east of this also at an unknown date; west room shows evidence of a former fireplace.

Historical events connected with the structure None have been uncovered to date except it was the residence at one time of the Cooks who founded the Provincetown Wharf Theater, and who were the "discoverers" of Eugene O'Neil, American playwright, who was living and writing in Provincetown. This information was related by Attorney Ball and by Mrs. Laura Johnson, whose summer residence is located at the intersection of Higgins Hollow Road and Long Nook Road.

Important old views None found to date.

Sources of information Present owner; Sheldon Osborn Ball, Provincetown Attorney; Mrs. Laura Johnson, Long Nook Road, Truro; Mrs. Ruth Dyer, North Pamet Road, Truro.

Likely sources not yet investigated. A search of the Truro Town records and the Barnstable County records could be made. These latter records are incomplete prior to 1827 because of a court fire on that date. Mrs. Bostock also said some light ~~might be~~ shed on the former owners and date of the house by Mrs. Harold Cook of Cambridge, Mass. She is the daughter in law of the Cook's who lived in the house in the 1920's.

Prepared by Charles S. Dotts
Charles S. Dotts, Architect
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INTERIOR

Floor plans "Double house" with main entrance centrally located on the north side facing the road. This is not the typical orientation of houses in this area, which was generally to build the house facing the south. The entrance is flanked by a two window west room and by a two window east room. Remodeling of the interior has resulted in a plan that is dissimilar to the general plan of the early house found on Cape Cod. A frame shed was added at an unknown to the east side of the east front room, and a kitchen ell was added to this, also at an unknown date. The second floor has been changed in plan, also.

Stairways One stairway with 9, 7" treads, approximately 5'-6" run, leading from the east room to the second floor.

Flooring Random width (3" to 14") pine boards.

Wall and ceiling finish Plastered walls and ceilings. Some rooms have painted walls, others are papered. Wood wainscoting to height of window stool is still in place in the east room.

Doorways and doors 4 panel interior wood doors.

Trim Much of the original trim has been replaced.

Hardware Mostly modern, with an old lift and latch bar on the front door.

Lighting Electric.

Heating Hot air furnace with floor ducts.

SITE

Orientation House faces north, on lot including 14 acres of land. The house sets very close to the road.

Enclosures None.

Outbuildings Shingled out house and shed back of house.

Walks, driveways None.

Landscaping Shrubbery, trees, in good condition, with neat appearance.

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